
ZELLA NEMER OBITUARY

"If I've told you this before, stop me." Then came a story, sometimes, even often, a good one. Zella Nemer died quietly at her home on Dec. 22, 2002. It had been a wonderful life, and Zella had many good stories to tell.

Zella was born in Aberdeen, S.D., to Sophie and Jacob Parkans on Sept. 29, 1922. While attending the University of Wisconsin, she met Maury Nemer, who was soon to become her husband. Together, they headed west to start a new life together and stopped in Billings to visit Zella's sister, Florence Gordon and her husband Leonard. That was as far as they got, and Billings became their home. Working alongside her husband at Reliable Tent and Awning Company, Zella and Maury built a nice life with a close family and many good friends.

Zella was an avid bridge player and, along with Florence, she became one of the first female Life Masters in Montana. She and Florence also founded Sophie's, one of Billings' nicest ladies stores. Golf also was an important part of Zell's life - a very important part. She enjoyed the game and the company at the Yellowstone Country Club in Billings and at the Indian Wells Country Club in Indian Wells, Calif., where she and Maury wintered for nearly 30 years. Zella chaired ladies golf at both clubs and volunteered at the Bob Hope Desert Classic on a regular basis.

She is survived by Maury, her husband of 56 years; her son Bob and his wife Linda; and her daughter Raule and her husband Bob Topp. Grandson David and his wife, Liz, thrilled Zella with a fourth generation Nemer just last October. Grandsons Simon and Harry attend middle school and high school in Evergreen, Colo., where the Topp family lives. Zella was preceded in death by her granddaughter, Jennifer Nemer Sibinger.

"We'll miss you Mom. You were the best, the very best."

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 26, at Michelotti-Sawyers Mortuary. Interment will follow at the Beth Aaron Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Jenny Nemer Sibinger Scholarship Fund, c/o Paine Webber, PO Box 7028, Billings, MT 59103.

Michelotti-Sawyers Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.

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